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LETTER DATED 11 JANUARY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

After extensive consultations with my colleagues in Luanda, I must tell you that my Government is very concerned with the course of events in Angola, specifically the lack of action by the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) regarding the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol.

Over the past month, my Government has taken numerous steps to ensure that the peace process remains on track. Specifically, we have:

- Withdrawn the Forças Armadas Angolanas (FAA) back from the Soyo area;
- Withdrawn FAA from demobilization areas, notably Vila Nova;
- Initiated the process of terminating our contacts with Executive Outcomes and plan to remove all elements of Executive Outcomes from Angola by 31 January 1996;
- Presented to the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) a plan for quartering the Rapid Intervention Police and are prepared to implement that plan, once approved, by the end of January;
- Released all remaining prisoners in our custody;
- Renewed our invitation to Dr. Savimbi to meet with President dos Santos in January;
- Continued to provide material support for UNAVEM and to meet with UNITA at Bailundo in an attempt to resolve outstanding political and military issues;
- Responded positively to a UNITA proposal regarding the number of UNITA military personnel that will remain in FAA after demobilization;
- Effectively stopped the operations and military movements throughout Angola;

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- Accepted a request by Dr. Savimbi for flexibility in providing a list of UNITA personnel to be incorporated in the Government of Unity and National Reconciliation;

- Invited UNITA to identify teams to work on the revision of the Constitution, with the goal of incorporating changes that include the position of Vice-President, an office not currently mentioned in the Constitution.

Despite all of these steps, the peace process remains stagnant. To date, neither Dr. Savimbi nor his colleagues have responded to President dos Santos' invitation to meet. UNITA has yet to reinitiate the most critical element of the peace process - demobilization. As important from our point of view, and I would imagine from the United Nations as well, is the failure of UNITA to provide UNAVEM with the necessary information on military matters (as called for in the Lusaka Protocols), and its continued harassment of UNAVEM and non-governmental organization personnel.

UNITA has also raised the level of rhetoric in its recent broadcasts, emphasizing that the Government is preparing a massive military campaign. I want to assure you that nothing could be further from the truth. The Government of Angola is not planning military operations against UNITA. President dos Santos has said that the military would not take any steps that would undercut the peace process. The Government will, instead, focus on utilizing UNAVEM to prevent further problems or utilize the Joint Commission and UNAVEM to resolve disputes. The immediate measures taken at Soyo has permitted to overcome the problem and has proved the Government's willingness to march towards peace.

We are, however, very frustrated with the situation. We still hope that a meeting between President dos Santos and Dr. Savimbi can occur in January. To that end, the Government remains in continuous contact with Dr. Savimbi, primarily through visits to Bailundo by our representatives in the Joint Commission. Our Government commends all the diplomatic work carried out by Maitre Bloundin Beye. In addition, Government and UNITA officials will resume talks in Luanda on how to move the peace process forward.

We will persist in our efforts and will seek solutions to these issues at the talks with UNITA, but will greatly appreciate it if the United Nations Special Representative Beye can impress upon UNITA the importance of a meeting with President dos Santos and encourage them to revive and accelerate the demobilization process. To that end, I believe it is important that senior United Nations officials visit Angola whenever possible; these visits stimulate the process and send a signal of continuing interest.

I am at your disposal to discuss these matters, with the specific goal of taking whatever action is necessary to ensure that the peace process is revived, accelerated and succeeds in 1996. More broadly, I want to assure you that President dos Santos is prepared to take all possible steps to turn the peace process irreversible.

I also want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy new year. I look forward to discussing these matters with you at your convenience.

Finally, I should like to request that this document be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Afonso Van-Dunem "MBINDA"
Ambassador
Permanent Representative